

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

RICHARD ALLEN EDWARDS,)	
ID # 053728,)	
Plaintiff,)	
vs.)	No. 3:13-CV-2024-G-BH
)	
ELMER TANNER, Sheriff, et al.,)	
Defendants.)	Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to *Special Order 3-251*, this pro se prisoner case has been automatically referred for pretrial management. Based on the relevant filings and applicable law, the case should be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court.

I. BACKGROUND

On May 30, 2013, Richard Allen Edwards (Plaintiff) filed a civil rights action against the Navarro County sheriff and two officers in the county jail, using the standard form for prisoners filing a civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. (*See* doc. 3). Page two of the form specifically states:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is your responsibility to inform the Court of any change of address and its effective date. Such notice should be marked “**NOTICE TO THE COURT OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS**” and shall not include any motion(s) for any other relief. Failure to file a **NOTICE TO THE COURT OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS** may result in the dismissal of your complaint pursuant to Rule 41(b), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Id. On June 3, 2013, the Court entered an order granting Plaintiff’s motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP) that again specifically advised him that he was required to notify the Court of any change of address, and that failure to do so could result in dismissal of the case. (*See* doc. 5). On June 5, 2013, a Magistrate Judge’s Questionnaire (MJQ) was mailed to the address provided by

Plaintiff. (*See* doc. 6). On June 18, 2013, both the Court's order and the MJQ were returned as undeliverable. (*See* docs. 8, 9). It appears that Plaintiff has changed addresses without notifying the Court as directed on the complaint form.

II. INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court. *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988) (§ 1983 prisoner action). This authority flows from a court's inherent power to control its docket, prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases, and avoid congested court calendars. *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962). The complaint form and the order, both dated June 3, 2013, advised Plaintiff that failing to file a change of address could result in dismissal of this action. Because he failed to follow a court order or otherwise show that he intends to proceed with his case, Plaintiff's case should be dismissed under Rule 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court.

III. RECOMMENDATION

This case should be dismissed without prejudice under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court.

SO RECOMMENDED on this 19th day of June, 2013.


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions, and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE